(d) and (e) It was found that the then Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) to MR had signed the requisition slips for release of berths from the Emergency Quota in these cases. However, it is difficult to attach any motive on the part of the then APS to MR. The requisitions were perhaps signed in good faith as he also has to deal with other public who might come to seek help from the Minister. Moreover, he is no more in the office and not being a government servant, no departmental action is possible.

Irregularities in CSIR

4713. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General Report (No. 5 of 2000) pinpoints various irregularities by the top officials in Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(b) whether copies of an article appearing in Business India, No. 556, 1999 about the Director General of CSIR, is reprinted on Lucky Art Paper at National Institute of Science Communication, CSIR, at the expense of public money;

(c) whether Director, National Institute of Science Communications used the staff and facilities for private function at Delhi during November, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No Sir, examination of the report by CSIR has revealed that there may have been irregular expenditure of around Rs. 38 lakh only, out of an audited expenditure of Rs. 10,000 lakh.

(b) Yes Sir, the article referred to was about the transformation in CSIR in recent years and the role played by its Director-General in this process. The selective circulation of the cover article appearing in a business magazine of repute was considered to be in the interest of CSIR in view of the fact that the story in the magazine represented a

possible view of the Indian industry about CSIR. The article was, thus, got printed inhouse at National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) incurring an expenditure of less than Rs. 15,000.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Grants to Rajasthan by Ministry of Science and Technology

†4714. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by Ministry of Science and Technology to the Rajasthan Government during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as grant and the details of items, programmes, projects or any special head under which the said amount was provided; and

(b) whether the Rajasthan Government has timely submitted the expenditure account to the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) The details are given in the statement (*See below*).

(b) Yes, Sir.

Statement

GRANTS BY MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

YEAR 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Items/Projects/Programmes	Grants released
1.	Core Support to Council	Rs. 37.50 lakh

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.